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LETTER DATED 16 MAY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to draw to your attention a communiqué on Bosnia and Herzegovina which was issued on 13 May 1994 by the Troika of the European Union and the Foreign Ministers of France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

We would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MÉRIMÉE
Permanent Representative of France

(Signed) Yuliy VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

(Signed) Sir David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(Signed) Madeleine Korbel ALBRIGHT
Permanent Representative of the United States of America

Annex

Communiqué dated 13 May 1994 of the Meeting of Foreign Ministers in Geneva

The Foreign Ministers of Greece, Belgium and Germany and European Commissioner Hans van den Broek, comprising the Troika of the European Union, and the Foreign Ministers of France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America met in Geneva on 13 May. Together with the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, they reviewed the serious situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their common efforts to date to end the conflict and achieve a political settlement.

The Ministers underscore their resolve and unity of purpose in working for an early and durable settlement of the Bosnian conflict. They reaffirm that the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot be resolved by military means and must be settled through negotiations. Only a peaceful settlement will command the support of the international community and offer the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina the prospect of a secure future. They confirm their support for a settlement that preserves Bosnia and Herzegovina as a single Union within its internationally recognized borders, while providing for constitutional arrangements that establish the relationship between the Bosniac-Croat and the Bosnian Serb entities. The Ministers are committed to doing their utmost to promote such a settlement.

They also affirm the readiness of their countries to participate as appropriate in implementing an agreed settlement and in supporting the reconstruction of war-ravaged Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Ministers express their strong concern that in the wake of the recent Bosnian Serb attack on the United Nations-declared safe area of Gorazde, the negotiating process has been set back. They warn all the parties concerning the unacceptability and risks of pursuing military solutions. In this regard, they support the determination of the international community to take the necessary action to protect the safe areas within Bosnia and Herzegovina established in accordance with Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993). They demand that the parties comply fully with the terms and conditions of the relevant Security Council resolutions, the decisions taken in reliance thereon, and all agreements the parties have concluded. They express their full support for strict enforcement of these resolutions, decisions and agreements. The Ministers demand that all parties permit the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance in accordance with existing agreements. The Ministers insist on the release of those members of humanitarian organizations in detention.

The Ministers note with concern the recent military action related to Brcko and endorse efforts currently being made by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and under way in the United Nations Security Council to prevent offensive action in safe areas, and particularly in and around Brcko, and to reduce tensions in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Ministers agreed on immediate steps aimed at an early settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They call on the parties to conclude a comprehensive cessation of hostilities and to resume in parallel, without preconditions, serious efforts to reach a political settlement.

The agreement on cessation of hostilities must include the separation of forces, the withdrawal of heavy weapons and the interposition of UNPROFOR troops. On the basis of previous discussions with the parties, the Ministers believe that the agreement should be for a period of four months, with provision for extension. The Ministers underscored the need for the United Nations and the parties to establish necessary arrangements to ensure compliance with this agreement. To complete its task in the safe areas and in support of the cessation of hostilities, UNPROFOR will need further reinforcement.

Previous negotiations have established the concept of a territorial compromise based on 51 per cent for the Bosniac-Croat entity and 49 per cent for the Bosnian Serb entity. Ministers urge the parties to reach an agreement on this basis.

The Ministers take note of the steps to establish the Bosniac-Croat Federation. They believe that the final arrangement for the Federation must provide it with viable, realistic and reasonable territory consistent with the concept described above.

The existing United Nations Security Council resolutions must be strictly enforced and complied with, and the Ministers agree that any attempt to make sanctions relief a precondition of resuming talks is unacceptable. Good-faith implementation of a peace settlement that includes provisions for withdrawal to agreed territorial limits will lead to phased suspension of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

With a view to achieving an early settlement within this framework, the Ministers invite the parties to begin substantive negotiations under the aegis of the Contact Group within the next two weeks. The Contact Group was instructed to immediately commence all the necessary substantive preparations aimed at facilitating an early settlement.

The Ministers will follow closely the course of these negotiations and the actions of the parties on the ground. They agreed to meet again as soon as necessary.